

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Lake Berryessa, California Quarterly Newsletter

September 30, 2010

Right of Use Application and Required Activity Forms

Applications

- [Shade Shelter Reservation](#) (pdf - 28 KB)
- [Right of Use Application \(ROU\)](#) (pdf - 121 KB)
- [Special Event Permit](#) (MS Word)
- [Use Authorization Application](#) (pdf - 34 KB)



Permits Required for Events and Activities at Lake Berryessa

The public may access almost all of the shoreline and waters of Lake Berryessa. Reclamation does require permits for some activities and events, in order to maintain safety of our visitors and to protect the resources found here. You must obtain a permit for a variety of events and for any ground or resource disturbing activity on Reclamation lands and waters.

Once you have obtained a permit to hold a public special event around Lake Berryessa (fishing tournament, triathlon, Earth Day event, etc.), we can post that information on our website [Calendar of Events](#).

Reclamation also requires that visitors maintain required permits for all activities that are regulated by the State of California and Napa County. These include maintaining valid fishing licenses, hunting licenses, food service permits, and any other permits required by Napa County or California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Hunting is not allowed on Reclamation lands and waters surrounding Lake Berryessa, but may be allowed on adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands, and the California Department of Fish and Game lands on Pope Creek. A Reclamation firearms permit is required to cross our lands to participate in hunting on adjacent lands. CDFG license requirements and available hunting locations can be obtained on their website: www.dfg.ca.gov.

Examples of events that require permits include, but are not limited to the following; large group gatherings or parties (over 50 people); competitive events (triathlons, fishing tournaments, poker runs); exhibitions (jet ski events, boat or vehicle parades); fundraisers; and movie filming and production.

No commercial activity is allowed on Federal property without a permit or without authorization by Reclamation (selling of merchandise or food, entry fees, guide services, or other fee for service activities).

Examples of activities or projects that require a project proposal, permit, and/or environmental assessment prior to the activity include, but are not limited to the following; research activities; ground disturbing activities; water or wildlife monitoring activities; grazing permits; and plant or animal collection.

Special Use/Right of Use Permits

If you have a special event that you would like to host at Lake Berryessa, please obtain a [Right of Use Application](#). Applications must be received at least two weeks prior to the event, and one month prior for large events. Anything from a fishing tournament to a triathlon can be hosted on Bureau of Reclamation land. Event coordinators will also be required to provide Reclamation with all other county permits and a Liability of Insurance Certificate for the scheduled event. For further information and availability please contact:

Outdoor Recreation Planner
5520 Knoxville Road
Napa, California 94558

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707-966-2111 ext. 103

jqjordan@usbr.gov

Project /Research/Grazing/Collection Activity Proposals and Permits

All soil-disturbing, research, collection and building project requests must be permitted by Reclamation, with appropriate environmental compliance documentation. Adjacent private land owners with easements through Reclamation lands are also required to submit a project proposal when altering, or disturbing these lands of the boundary fence. Constructing or maintaining roads to the lake shoreline without a Reclamation permit is prohibited. A project proposal form is available by point and clicking this webpage: <http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/lands/FINAL7-2540-5-06ExpDate03312009.pdf>

For information related to these permits, please contact our Administrative Office at 707/966-2111 during regular office hours (Mon-Fri, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.).

Fishing Permits

California Department of Fish and Game fishing permits are required year round on Lake Berryessa. Please see [Fishing](#) page for more information.

Hunting/Firearms Permits

Hunting and shooting are **not allowed** on lands and waters managed by the Bureau of Reclamation at Lake Berryessa.

In the area surrounding and adjacent to Reclamation lands at Lake Berryessa, there are public lands managed by other agencies or private landowners (Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Fish and Game, etc.) that do permit hunting in designated areas. Often the only access to these lands is by crossing Reclamation-managed lands and waters.

In order to access these public lands for hunting, an individual must obtain a permit from Reclamation allowing them to carry a firearm across Reclamation-managed lands. To obtain a firearms permit (all guns and bows), you must bring a valid driver's license and a valid, current hunting license to our Administrative Office during our normal business hours (Mon-Fri, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m). We do not provide firearms permits by phone, fax, or email. You can contact us at 707/966-2111, ext. 0.

For more specific questions on designated hunting areas, please contact BLM at 707/468-4000, or www.blm.gov.

For more information on fishing and hunting license requirements, please contact CDFG Ukiah Office at 707/944-5500, or www.dfg.ca.gov.

Fishing

Fishing at Lake Berryessa is among the best in the state. There are fish to be found at all times of the year. We have a good selection of fish at the lake including rainbow trout, small and largemouth bass, catfish, crappie, silver salmon and bluegill. Fishing is permitted with a valid license on all of Lake Berryessa's public lands and waters. Free fishing access can be found at Capell Cove (along with free boat launch), [Oak Shores](#) and Smittle Creek Day Use Parks, and all of the dispersed lake access sites. For advice on what tackle to use, see the [Lake Berryessa fishing brochure](#).

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Fishing Brochure

Click [here](#) for an electronic (pdf) copy of the fishing brochure.

Where to Obtain Fishing Licenses in the Area

You can obtain a fishing license at various resorts and stores in the local area. These include Turtle Rock Store, Pleasure Cove Resort, Markley Cove Resort, and others. [More...](#)

For fishing permit and rules information see the [California Department of Fish and Game](#) website.

Berryessa Facts

Monticello Dam Facts

- Dam Height 304 feet tall
- 90 ft wide at Base, 12 feet wide at crest
- Dam spans 1,023 feet across the canyon (Devil's Gate)

Lake Berryessa Facts

- 23 miles long at longest point, 3 miles wide at widest point
- 165 miles of shoreline.
- Storage capacity of 1.6 million acre-feet of water

[More...](#)

Early History of Lake Berryessa

Lake Berryessa is a manmade lake created to provide water for irrigation, municipal and industrial uses and flood control protection. Under the waters of Lake Berryessa lie ghost roads that once led to ranchers, farmers, miners, Native Americans, and Mexicans. The origin of the name Berryessa is from two brothers with the last name of Berryessa. The brothers, Jose Jesus and Sisto Berryessa, owned a significant portion of the land in and around the town of Monticello, now covered by the waters of Lake Berryessa.



The earliest dwellers of the Berryessa Valley were the Miwok and Patwin Indian tribes who lived on the valley floor along Putah Creek and its tributaries.

These Native Americans existed quite comfortably there until the early 1800's when early European settlers slowly forced them to leave the valley floor and settle in the surrounding hills.

In 1843, Governor Micheltorena signed official grant documents giving Jose Jesus and Sisto Berryessa 36,000 acres of land, which constituted the whole Berryessa valley. It was one of the largest land grants in California. The Berryessas constructed a huge adobe hacienda in the center of their property and had thousands of cattle, sheep, and horses on the surrounding acreage. The Berryessas demise came when they lost piece after piece of their property through gambling and horseracing. Owing \$1645 to Edward Schultz, they were forced to sell him their remaining 26,000 acres in a county-petitioned auction for \$2,000. Schultz turned around and sold the land to the "Land Company" for \$100,000.

The Land Company then parceled the land into farm properties, leaving an area for the development of a town. In 1866, the town of Monticello was founded, and by 1870, there was a general store, blacksmith shops, several hotels and businesses, and a four-horse stage line running from Knoxville to Napa via Monticello. In 1896, the Putah Creek Bridge was constructed across Putah Creek in the center of Monticello town. This bridge has the unique distinction of still standing beneath the waters of Lake Berryessa today.

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After gold was discovered in California, a vast migration passed through Solano County since it was on a direct route between San Francisco Bay and the gold fields. Communities grew rapidly, and agriculture expanded.

Following the severe drought in the 1860's, large-scale grain production began, followed by a more diversified agriculture based on irrigation and dry-land crops. Sheep and cattle production continued to hold an important place in the economy of the area. Specialty crops came into prominence as demand for agricultural products in the San Francisco Bay area increased and water well

capability was developed. With the increased irrigation and the municipal and industrial development of the county, the demand for water resulted in the utilization of all of the more readily available sources of supply.

Development of Monticello Dam and the Solano Project

The problem of obtaining additional water to maintain existing and planned development became more and more critical. In 1907, the Mulholland-Goethals-Davis plan was formed which included storing water behind a dam at Devil's Gate in the Berryessa Valley. The plan never materialized. In 1908, the newly formed U.S. Bureau of Reclamation considered the Dixon plan to supply water to Dixon and Winters. It, too, never materialized. Several other ideas came and went until 1947, when Solano County in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation formed the Solano Project in order to provide water to Solano County and surrounding irrigable lands.



The [Solano Project](#) plan included building Monticello Dam, the Putah Diversion Dam, the Putah South Canal, the Terminal Dam and Reservoir, the Green Valley Conduit and distribution systems.

The Secretary of the Interior authorized the Solano Project on November 11, 1948, under the terms of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939.

Construction of the project began in 1953. Monticello Dam and the Putah Diversion Dam were completed in 1957 and the Putah South Canal was completed early in 1959.



The Monticello Dam, the Putah Diversion Dam, the Putah South Canal, and the Green Valley Conduit and distribution systems are owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and through an agreement operated and maintained by the Solano Irrigation District under contract with the Solano County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Lake Berryessa provides water annually to the cities of Vallejo, Vacaville, Fairfield, Benicia, and Suisun. Water is furnished through the city systems to Travis Air Force Base, Mare Island and Benicia Arsenal. At full pool (440 feet mean sea level) the lake is 23 miles long, 3 miles wide and stores 1,600,000 acre feet of water within the 165 miles of shoreline.

Recreation Development

At the time of the lake's development, the Bureau of Reclamation lacked specific authority and funds to develop and manage recreation facilities, and in 1958, Napa County was persuaded to enter into a management agreement for the administration and development of recreation facilities.



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The Bureau of Reclamation regained management of the recreational uses on and around the lake in 1974. Reclamation added three day use areas for the visiting public that are available today along with other recreational opportunities in the area.

Reclamation provides three free public day use areas, Oak Shores, Smittle Creek, and Capell Cove Boat Launch. The day use areas offer a spectacular view of the lake with picnic tables, barbeque grills, hiking trails, off-shore fishing, beach related activities and shade. More information to the day use areas can be found on the [Activities around the Lake](#) page.

Lake Berryessa also offers opportunities for camping, overnight use, restaurants, marinas, and other visitor services in seven resorts that are managed by private concessions under contract with Reclamation. Additional resort information can be found on our [Visitor Information](#) and [Resorts and Concessions Activities](#) links.

The concessions contracts for the seven existing resorts expire in 2008/2009. Reclamation is working to plan for the future of Lake Berryessa and to provide optimal visitor services for the recreational public that has reached approximately 1.5 million visitors per year. Additional information on the planning process is available at the [Lake Berryessa Visitor Services Planning Effort](#) website.

Wildlife

Primitive landscapes, easy water access, and conservation efforts make Lake Berryessa a wonderful location to view an incredible array of wildlife. Lake Berryessa and the surrounding area provide diverse habitats for a plethora of wildlife. The common visitor will get a chance to view some everyday wildlife such as squirrels, turkey vultures, deer, and ducks. Besides the usual wildlife, visitors may have a possibility of seeing rare animals such as bald eagles, red tailed hawks, mountain lions, bobcats, and more. The following list includes just some of the wildlife you may see on your visit to Lake Berryessa.

Go to this link to print brochures on [Watchable Wildlife, Birding Checklist, Natural History Guide, and Snakes of Berryessa](#). See our [Fishing](#) page for brochures and information on sport fish found at Lake Berryessa.

[Photo Gallery](#)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• American kestrel• Bald Eagle• Bobcat• California King Snake• Common Garter Snake• Coyote• Deer• Golden Eagle | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gopher Snake• Gray Fox• Mountain Lion• Osprey• Raccoon• Rattlesnake• Red Tailed Hawk• Ring neck Snake | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ring tail• Rubber Boa• Turkey Vulture• Western Aquatic Gartner Snake• Western Yellow-Bellied Racer• Western Terrestrial Garter• Wild Turkey |
|---|--|---|

Plants

Plant life surrounding Lake Berryessa is both old and new— in its mountain folds, streams, and steep slopes are found some of the most unique native species of California's Coastal Ranger flora. The Lake Berryessa region also supports recent exotic, even intrusive, newcomers.

Plant life in the Berryessa region is a mix of oak woodland, chaparral, grassland, and riverine woodland habitats. Flora that thrives in this area are adapted to cool winters, when most of the year's rain falls, and long dry summers.

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The Lake Berryessa region averages 24 inches of rainfall a year. One can find brushy drought resistant chaparral on sunny southern slopes close by ferns in shadows of the riverine cliffs.

Both oak and chaparral have woody branches with deep root systems that capture water, with leaves and stems that retain water. Leaves are commonly hard and waxy. This water-saving combination allows plants to thrive in arid-to-drought conditions, and to become adapted to accommodate brush fires common in this area.

The steep terrain surrounding the lake at this eastern edge of the Coastal Range serves to preserve the special plants that native Patwin tribes used before European settlement of this area. Early Californians never developed agriculture, and didn't need to. The land, plants, and animals supported a culture. The plants early local Californians used for food and medicine can still be found on the slopes and ravines around the lake.

For more information on plants of Berryessa, please see our:

- [Natural Resources Management page](#)
- [Photo Gallery link](#)
- [Lake Berryessa Plant Species List](#)

Activities Around the Lake

Activities Around the Lake



Lake Berryessa receives approximately 1.5 million visitors every year, who participate in year around recreational activities. [Lake Berryessa](#) offers both [Day Use Opportunities](#), and [Resorts/Overnight Accommodations](#), as well as a variety of water-based activities and rentals.

Popular activities around Lake Berryessa include waterskiing, jet skiing, pleasure boating, kayaking and canoeing, hiking, road bicycling, motorcycle pleasure biking, birding, wildlife observation, picnicking, swimming, and similar activities.

Lake Berryessa is located approximately 45 minutes from the towns of Napa and Winters, and has limited facilities for some services. Before you visit Lake Berryessa, you can plan your trip to be sure you have all the equipment, licenses, and other gear you'll need for a fun and safe trip. Please see [Things to Remember](#) for more details.



[Calendar of Events](#)

For additional information on any of the events, please call a Berryessa Park Ranger at 707/966-2111 ext 112

For more information on how to schedule a program, please contact Park Ranger [Mike McGraw](#) at 707-966-2111 ext 112

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Past Events

National Public Lands Day Event At Lake Berryessa

On September 30th, Lake Berryessa participated in the 13th National Public Lands Day under the auspices of the Take Pride in America (TPIA) program. The event is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands. This year, eight volunteers and three members of the Berryessa park staff spent several hours removing trash and large debris piles from Pope Creek Canyon. Participant cleared garbage on foot, with a boat, and by using several kayaks. Berryessa Trails and Conservation, a non-profit organization based in Napa County, was instrumental in organizing the event. In addition to trash removal, participants also performed maintenance on the Pope Canyon Trail. Overall, the day was a fine way to "get down and dirty" for Berryessa.



Lake Berryessa Cleanup Day 2006 – A Success



On September 16th, 135 volunteers (including 97 divers) spent the morning cleaning the Pope Creek Bridge Area of Lake Berryessa. The event was part of Coastal Cleanup Day, a statewide and international effort to clean trash and debris from coasts, bays, creeks, rivers, and lakes. For seven years now, Napa Dive and Sports, along with Reclamation and many concerned people in the community, have been pulling debris out of the water and gathering garbage from around the lakeshore. This year's effort netted 1,080lbs (40 bags) of "recyclables" and 450lbs (12 bags) of trash. Beneath the surface of the lake, divers found a treasure trove of items; including a couple dozen sunglasses, a walkman stereo system, numerous pairs of shoes, and beer cans with resident crayfish inside. Along the shoreline children and adults picked-up Styrofoam, cans, bottles, glass and plastic containers. Cleanup Day ended with a well deserved BBQ feast. Big thanks to the Napa County Department of Environmental Management, Napa County Resource Conservation District and especially Napa Dive and Sports for helping to make this event possible.

Road Bicycling

Highway 128 and Pope Canyon Road provide very scenic and challenging road conditions for bicycle enthusiasts. Several century rides and competitive bicycling events are held every year around Lake Berryessa. Look for more information on our Calendar of Events. Safety – When planning a bicycle trip or event at Lake Berryessa, remember that there are few shoulder areas along Highway 128 and Knoxville Roads, many blind turns, and few passing lanes for cars. Unfortunately, there are several bicycle/vehicle accidents each year on our roadways. Please be aware on the road, ride single file, and pull over to let cars and trailers pass you in tight areas.

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[Oak Shores and Smittle Creek Day Use Parks](#)

Reclamation manages and maintains a contiguous 3 mile stretch of shoreline for public day use activities, encompassing Oak Shores Day Use Park, Smittle Creek Trail, and Smittle Creek Day Use Park. Recreational opportunities include picnicking, swimming, non-motorized boating, hiking, wildlife viewing, [fishing](#), and boat mooring

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for day use (bring your own anchor or stake), among others. Both Day Use Parks offer beautiful views of Lake Berryessa and a wonderful place to enjoy the lake. Summer weekends are busy, so come early to find good parking. Oak Shores and Smittle Creek are patrolled year round by Park Rangers who are available for visitor information and safety.

Entrance is FREE for both Day Use Parks and all dispersed areas around Lake Berryessa.

Park Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. – dusk, year around

(Closing time varies seasonally; see entrance sign for designated closing time)

Facilities available in Oak Shores include picnic tables, charcoal grills, two hand boat launches, ADA accessible restrooms, two designated swim beaches with no boat access, and shade shelters available on a reservation basis (see below). The Entrance Station and Water Education and Information Station are open on summer weekends to find information on recreational opportunities, water safety, conservation, or talk with a Ranger.

Facilities available in Smittle Creek are slightly more challenging to access and are spread out among rolling hills and along Smittle Creek Trail. They include picnic tables, charcoal grills, trails, and ADA accessible restrooms (trails may not be fully accessible to reach the restrooms).

You may bring your own propane or gas grill, but must use park grills for charcoal fires. No wood fires are permitted on Reclamation lands. Please bring cans or plastic and leave glass containers at home. No trailers are permitted inside Oak Shores or Smittle Creek Day Use Parks, so plan accordingly.

Please see our [Park Rules](#) for more information and to assist you in planning a great family outing!

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Capell Cove Boat Launch Day Use Area

Reclamation offers a free motorized boat launch and trailer parking on the northwest shore of Lake Berryessa. Trailer parking is available on a first come, first served basis, so plan to arrive early on summer weekends. ADA accessible restrooms and an ADA accessible boat dock on the launch ramp are available. Capell Cove is also a popular shoreline and boat fishing location.

- [Resort and Facilities Map](#) (pdf - 207 KB)
- [Oak Shores Brochure](#) (pdf - 1.7 MB)

Other Activities Around the Lake

- [Oak Shores and Smittle Creek Day Use Area](#)
- [Capell Cove Boat Launch Day Use Area](#)
- [Fishing](#)
- [Hiking](#)
- [Hunting](#)
- [Kayaking/Canoeing](#)

Lake Berryessa is part of a larger watershed that includes several regional recreational opportunities.

Quail Ridge

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- [Natural Reserve System](#)

Formed in 1984 by the Quail Ridge Conservatory and now part of the University of California's Natural Reserve System, Quail Ridge provides excellent research and educational opportunities for students and the public. This unique area, located on a peninsula jutting into Lake Berryessa, supports one of the best examples of minimally impacted native California oak woodland, chaparral, and grassland in the state. Shaded trails wind through native California bunch-grasses - grasses that once flourished on 25 million acres in California but are rarely seen today. Tours of the area are available through the University of California, at Davis.

The Donald and Sylvia McLaughlin Reserve

Located within the North Coast Range of California, the [Donald and Sylvia McLaughlin Reserve](#) represents largely serpentine mixed chaparral habitat. The current reserve is comprised of lands on long term lease from Homestake Mines and Bureau of Land Management properties, and is held as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Adjacent to the reserve, Homestake Mine owns several thousand acres upon which they have an active mining operation. The current reserve is considered to be the first of a three phase conversion of properties owned by Homestake Mine. Eventually the reserve will contain all of the lands owned by Homestake Mines as they wind down operations over the next 20-30 years. Excellent opportunities for research in restoration/reclamation, geology and serpentine habitats are available.

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The Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve

The [Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve](#) consists of 576 acres in the drainages of Wild Horse and Cold Canyons. It is accessible by the Stebbins/Cold Canyon Trailhead just below Monticello Dam near Canyon Creek Resort. Most of the land bordering the reserve is public. Thus, approximately 4000 acres of wildlands are available for study. The reserve's topography is primarily steeply sloping, with almost no flat land. This topography creates frequent slips and landslides, resulting in excellent opportunities for succession research. Thus far, the list of vascular plants of the Cold Creek basin includes 322 species. The fauna includes most of the familiar species of the inner Coast Range area. Overall, the diversity of plants and animals is remarkable given the reserve's small size. The reserve's trails are open to the public, year-round. All access off of the trails should be limited to permitted researchers and classes.

Lake Berryessa State Wildlife Area

The Lake Berryessa Wildlife Area is cooperatively managed by Reclamation and the California Department of Fish and Game. The federal land on the eastside of Lake Berryessa, above the high-water mark (elevation 440 feet msl), totals 2,000 acres. Of this, most of the northern 1/3 is annual grassland with scattered valley oaks and riparian corridors, while blue oak woodland communities dominate the middle and southern portions. Eastside Road, a gravel road maintained by Reclamation, serves the northern portion of the wildlife area and allows access to pedestrian only trails, wildlife viewing, and fishing along the shoreline. The east side of this road, or land side, is not accessible to the public. The road provides access to east side ranches, residences, and the upper 1/3 of the wildlife area. It's also used by Reclamation, California Department of Fish and Game, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Access to the southern portion of the wildlife area is by boat only, from boat ramps on the west and south sides of the lake. Unlike the northern 1/3 of the wildlife area, where extensive shallows occur, the southern portion is composed of hills and canyons that drop precipitously into the lake. There, the blue oak woodlands are relatively dense, with small, scattered openings throughout.

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Cedar Roughs, Area of Critical Environmental Concern

The ridges and hillsides just two miles west of Lake Berryessa are set aside by the [Bureau of Land Management](#) (BLM) as the Cedar Roughs Research Natural Area. The area is lush with natural flora and fauna, mainly the Sargent Cypress, whiteleaf manzanita, leather oak, and digger pine. Cedar Roughs supports a variety of common terrestrial wildlife species. One special aspect of the area is that it is the only known area in Napa County where black bears breed.

Cedar Roughs includes over 6,500 acres of public lands administered by the BLM and are accessible through lands administered by the [California Department of Fish and Game](#) (CDFG) and the Bureau of Reclamation. The area is accessible from Pope Canyon Road in Napa County. These lands are available for non-mechanized recreational activities such as wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping. Cedar Roughs is designated a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect unique botanical values (including the world's largest known stand of "genetically-pure" Sargent Cypress). The Cedar Roughs Area is adjoined to the 30,000 acre Lake Berryessa Recreation Area (LBRA) administered by Reclamation.

Access

Please stay on public lands unless you have written permission from adjacent private landowners to use or cross their private land. Legal access is only possible from the north along Pope Canyon Rd. The three major access points in the Cedar Roughs area are:

1. Cedar Roughs Access by Land- Located off Pope canyon Rd., 2.3 miles west of Pope Creek bridge, Lake Berryessa or 6.2 miles east of the Pope Valley air strip. Provides access to approximately 238 acres of CDF&G and 6,350 acres of BLM land. Park on south side of white gate, cross through the gate opening, follow trail markers northward, cross Pope Creek and climb hill a short distance to an abandoned Jeep trail. Jeep trail provides access into main block of public land. Note: Where Abandoned jeep trail crosses Pope Creek is on private land!
2. Lake Berryessa Access - Pope Creek Arm - Located 2.2 miles west of Pope Creek bridge, or 6.3 miles east of the Pope Valley air strip. Provides access to the Pope Creek arm of Lake Berryessa which provides several fishing access points. By packing a small rubber raft (and PFDs), you'll be able to cross the Pope Creek Arm of the lake to the boat access trail head to Cedar Roughs. From the brown and yellow gate, hike 0.6 miles southward to a "Y" in the trail. From the "Y," go right 0.3 miles down the hill to the water crossing, then raft across.
3. Cedar Roughs Access by Boat - Located 1.8 miles past Pope Creek Bridge on the Pope Creek Arm of Lake Berryessa. Nine boat ramps are accessible from the south and west sides of the lake.

Hiking Tips

- Be prepared for a rugged hike. There are few signed and no maintained trails in Cedar Roughs.
- Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Much of the area is very brushy.
- Be aware of ticks and watch out for rattlesnakes.
- Beware of the sun in the summer. Bring sun block, a hat, and plenty of water.
- During the summer, begin hiking early to avoid uphill climbs during the heat of the day.
- The prime hiking seasons are in Spring and Autumn.

Need to Know

- Stay on public lands. Do not trespass onto private property.
- Fire permits, available from any BLM, CDF, or U.S. Forest Service Office, are required. Open fires are prohibited during declared fire season.

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- Camping, open fires, hunting, and the use of firearms are prohibited on BOR administered land.
- BOR "Firearm Permits" are required when carrying firearms on Reclamation lands and water. Permits are available to hunters only at the Park Headquarters Office, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your hunting and drivers licenses and the CF number of the boat (if any) to obtain a permit. For more information contact the BOR Park Headquarters at (707) 966-2111.

Leave No Trace

- Pack it in, pack it out (including spent shell casings).
- Leave what you find.
- Be careful with fire.

For More Information

- Bureau of Land Management
Clear Lake Resource Area
707/468-4000
- California Department of Fish and Game
Region 3
707/944-5000
- Bureau of Reclamation
Lake Berryessa
707/966-2111

Ranger Programs

[Water Education](#)

[Visitor's Center](#)

[Field Program](#)



The Ranger Division is responsible for visitor safety and education around Lake Berryessa. Park Rangers regularly patrol the day use parks and dispersed access sites around the lake.

They share helpful resource information with visitors and help ensure that both visitors and the resources are protected. The following are just some of the programs that Rangers provide for our visitors.

Roving Ranger Programs

Rangers regularly patrol Oak Shores Day Use Park to share natural and cultural history, water safety, and other valuable information with summer visitors. When you visit the park on summer weekends, look for a Ranger to find fun, hands-on information and activities available for the whole family!

Junior Ranger Program

Our creative Park Ranger staff developed a Junior Ranger program for kids to learn about the natural wonders of Lake Berryessa and the importance of safety in and around the water. A Junior Ranger is someone who helps keep Lake Berryessa clean, safe, and fun for all to enjoy! This program is geared for families and kids from ages 5-12. To start your Junior Ranger Book or get your badge, find a Ranger at the Visitor Center or Water Education and Info Station on summer weekends, or stop by Reclamation's Field Office Administration Building during regular office hours.

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- [Jr. Ranger Activity Book](#) (pdf - 20 MB)

Park Ranger Picnic



Have a Park Ranger at your next birthday party or special event! Park Rangers can bring fun activities and interesting information to your family or group when you reserve a shade shelter.

They will introduce information and activities on the Junior Ranger Program, wildlife, birds of prey, wildflowers, local history, water safety, water conservation, or aquatic life, depending on your interests. Programs must be scheduled in advance. When you make reservations for the [Oak Shores Shade Shelters](#), be sure to ask if a Ranger is available and schedule this fun activity.

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Rangers in the Community

Park Rangers attend a variety of fairs and events in surrounding communities throughout the year. They share information on recreational opportunities around Lake Berryessa and bring fun water-related activities for the whole family.

See our [Calendar](#) for more information about events where you can talk with a Park Ranger. Contact the [Lead Park Ranger](#) for more information.



Water Education and Information Station



Reclamation Park Rangers created a Water Education and Information Station to provide fun family activities and relay water safety and conservation messages to visitors. We also provide a free lifejacket "loaner" service in Oak Shores during the Station hours of operation. The Water Education and Information Station is located inside Oak Shores Day Use Park at 5550 Knoxville Road, Napa CA 94558. Water Education and Information Station hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., on summer weekends and holidays only. [Details](#) [Event Calendar](#) [Photos](#)

Visitor Center



Front of the Visitor Center



Visitor Center Trail

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The Visitor Center offers both natural and cultural information on Lake Berryessa and the surrounding area, along with a variety of free brochures and maps. The Visitor Center is staffed by friendly and knowledgeable Park Rangers who can provide additional information about exhibits, points of interest, and assist with any other questions you may have.

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FIRST TIME TO THE LAKE?

The Visitor Center is a good place for first time visitors to stop in and acquire a free map and brochure of the lake. Brochures and maps can also be downloaded from our [Visitor Information](#) page.

The Visitor Center is located at

5520 Knoxville Road, Napa CA 94558

phone 707/966-2111.

Visitor Center hours are from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m

Daily in the summer and weekends in the winter months.

See [Driving Directions](#) on how to get here.

LAKE BERRYESSA WATER EDUCATION FIELD PROGRAM

Lake Berryessa: Protecting Your Future, One Drop at a Time!

Is this just another Field Trip?

No. The education program is an interdisciplinary learning experience for students in grades 4-6. The program integrates the natural resources of Lake Berryessa and California State standards. The thematic program was developed in cooperation with educators from our local communities including Napa, Winters, Sacramento, and the Bay Area.

WILL Park rangers help me teach my students?

Your class will join a Park Ranger to learn about living water resources at a Federal reservoir in your area-Lake Berryessa. The program utilizes Park Rangers as the subject experts and primary instructors, with assistance from the classroom teachers. The park outdoor “classroom” becomes the primary teaching resource. In addition to the on-site learning experience, the teacher packet includes pre-visit materials including logistical information, a pre/post test for comprehension, and pre and post-site activities that will help teachers supplement the on-site experience. Rangers are available for classroom visits to conduct water education lesson (i.e. pre-site visit).

What will MY students do?

The program is correlated to 5th grade curriculum standards, and is appropriate for grades 4-6. Students will explore Lake Berryessa resources found around the Oak Shores Day Use Park. They will see, hear, and learn first hand about:

- The value of water resources in our community
- Lake biology and chemistry
- Water conservation practices at home and in the community
- The complex water delivery system of this area

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How Can my class participate?

Three to four hour programs (including lunch time) are offered Monday through Friday, September – May. Classes typically arrive by 10:00 and leave by 1:00, but times are flexible depending on your drive time and field trip constraints. Class size: minimum 10; maximum 60. School groups are required to be accompanied by teachers and chaperones, with at least one adult per 10 students. Teachers and chaperones are responsible for all discipline and must remain with the group during the program. Programs are conducted rain or shine, but may be re-scheduled due to extreme weather.

Contact the Lead Interpretive Park Ranger at 707-966-2111 ext. 112 or email Lead Park Ranger for more information. There is NO CHARGE to participate.



- [Lake Berryessa Water Education Booklet](#) (pdf - 1.7 MB)
- [Latest Water Education Flyer](#)

Partnerships

The natural beauty of Lake Berryessa is the responsibility of all who visit. Reclamation is directly responsible for managing the natural resources in a way that will ensure their existence for future generations. This is accomplished with the help of many partners. Reclamation is currently working with resort owners to assist them with environmental compliance issues that are involved with projects on Federal land. Reclamation is also working with [Solano Irrigation District](#) and [Solano County Water Agency](#) for the delivery of millions of gallons of water for agriculture and domestic use. Reclamation works with many non-profit organizations including the [Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Partnership](#), working to protect and preserve natural areas in the greater Berryessa region. The Cortina Rancheria has assisted Reclamation with the restoration of native plants for basket weaving. They also hold their annual Tribal Youth Environmental Campout at the lake. These are just a few examples of cooperating agencies and organizations that have partnered with Reclamation to make Lake Berryessa a place to visit again and again.

Below is a list for other public and private organizations that work with Reclamation to ensure the health and safety of visitors and the environment.

- [California Boating and Waterways](#)
- [California Department of Forestry](#)
- [California Department of Health Services, Drinking Water](#)
- [California Department of Water Resources](#)
- [California Highway Patrol](#)

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- [California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region](#)
- [City of Fairfield](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [Gamble Ranch](#)
- [Lake Berryessa Trails and Conservation](#)
- [Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership](#)
- [Land Trust of Napa County](#)
- [Napa County](#)
- [Putah-Cache Bioregion Project](#)
- [Putah Creek Discovery Corridor](#)
- [Solano County](#)
- [University of California Davis](#)
- [Yolo County](#)

Resort/Concession Activities

News Release

- Lake Berryessa's [Pope Creek Bridge Waterway Closed](#) for Major Holidays - [Map](#) (10MB)

Where to Stay at Lake Berryessa

Overnight accommodations are available at two of the privately managed resorts located around Lake Berryessa (see area map to the right). Markley Cove Resort has overnight accommodations, as does Pleasure Cove Marina. Coming soon to Oak Shores will be a 100 site primitive campground expected to open mid June 2009.

Dispersed camping outside those resorts is prohibited.



**Please call 707-966 2111 Reclamation Headquarters
for the most current Resort information**

[Lake Solano County Park](#) (you will be leaving the Bureau website):

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Lake Solano County Park is located at the base of coastal foothills west of the town of Winters and offers an array of recreational opportunities. A destination point for outdoor enthusiasts since its creation in 1973, Lake Solano Park caters especially to anglers, boaters, campers, swimmers, sunbathers and picnickers. It is ideal for hiking, bicycling, bird watching and wildlife photography. Please contact Lake Solano County Park for more information on seasonal hours of operation and facilities available, 530-795-2990.



Markley Cove Resort:



Markley Cove Resort, the closest facilities to Monticello Dam, offers a convenience store, food service, marina, boat and jet ski rentals, boat gasoline, bait, and fishing licenses, among others. Please contact Markley Cove Resort for more information on seasonal hours of operation and facilities available, 707-966-2134.

Pleasure Cove Marina:

Pleasure Cove Marina offers a variety of overnight tent and RV camping, restaurant, marina, convenience store, and planned cabin and houseboat rentals. Please contact Pleasure Cove Marina for more information on seasonal hours of operation and facilities available, 707-966-9600.



Putah Creek Resort, Rancho Monticello Resort, Berryessa Marina Resort, Steele Park and Spanish Flat Resort are all closed for the 2009 season pending cleanup, removal activities and associated legal issues.

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Other Helpful Resources, Links, and Activities

- [Lake Berryessa Chamber website](#)
- [Berryessa Trail and Paddle Guide](#) (private website)
- [Berryessa Trails and Conservation](#) (private website with additional trail info)
- [Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Partnership](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management](#) (hunting, Off Highway Vehicle areas, additional regional recreation opportunity info)
- [California Department of Boating and Waterways](#) (boating safety and regulation info)
- [California Department of Fish and Game](#) (fishing and hunting permit info)
- [California Native Plant Society, Sacramento Chapter](#)
- [Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership](#)
- [Local Sierra Club](#)
- [The Napa County Land Trust](#)
- [Recreation.gov](#) (Governmentwide recreation and reservation information)
- [U.C. Davis Putah-Cache Creek Bioregion Project](#)
- [Upper Putah Creek Stewardship](#)
- [Quail Ridge Conservancy](#)

Natural Resources Management

Reclamation regularly monitors many environmental factors including water quality, wildlife populations, aquatic populations, and carrying capacity. Some of this research is carried out in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game and other local agencies.

- **Water Quality** – We monitor monthly for fecal coliform and E. coli, water temperature, turbidity, and PH.
- **Wildlife** – Reclamation partners with the California Department of Fish and Game to monitor and count osprey, bald eagle, black tailed deer, and various fish populations for size, health, and reproduction activity.



In January 2007, quagga mussels were discovered in Lakes Mead, Mohave, and Havasu. This is the first time zebra or quagga mussels have been discovered west of the Rocky Mountains. Zebra and quagga mussels have already invaded much of the Eastern U.S.

Fortunately, Lake Berryessa is free of zebra and quagga mussels. It depends on you...and all of us...to keep it this way.

Zebra and quagga mussels can be spread by your boat, but they cannot live out of the water for long periods of time. Simply washing boats and equipment and allowing it to fully dry is an effective way to reduce the risk of spreading these aquatic hitchhikers.

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Zebra and quagga mussels and other harmful plants and animals may be hiding under your trim tabs, in your engine, or even on our anchor chain. Zebra and quagga mussels are microscopic in their earliest life stages, making them impossible to detect with a visual inspection.

Zebra and quagga mussels have the potential to:

- Disrupt the food chain and fishing
- Foul facilities like docks and ramps
- Encrust boats and clog engines
- Litter beaches with sharp smelly shells.

It is suggested, when visiting Lake Berryessa, a self-inspection of boats and trailers be conducted prior to launching into Lake Berryessa. To acquire additional information on the self-inspection process please contact Lake Berryessa, Natural Resources Specialist at 707-966-2111 ext. 103.

- News Releases include:
 - [Reclamation Begins Boat Inspections at Lake Berryessa](#) 5/21/08
 - [Boaters Key to Stopping Spread of Invasive Mussels](#) 5/20/08
- Form - [Mussel Free Certification](#)
- PSA - Public Service Announcement
 - [2010 Mussel Mayhem](#)

For more information about quagga and zebra mussels please visit the Department of Fish and Game Website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/> or contact the Lake Berryessa, Natural Resources Specialist at 707-966-2111 ext. 103.

Lake Berryessa offers a variety of habitats that support a wide variety of flora and fauna. Not all of these species are native to this area, having been brought in by settlers, farmers, recreational visitors, and even by wildlife. These non-native species, or exotics, often have some positive effects for humans, but may have detrimental effects on native species survival. Native plants and animals have not been exposed to these sometimes fast growing and highly adaptable exotics, and often cannot compete for food, water, and other resources to survive. One example is the exotic wild oat grass, which out-competes the native bunch grasses by spreading out and taking in water more effectively than the natives, which endangers their survival in this region. You may also see wild hogs in the area, which were accidentally introduced when they escaped from domestic farms, and purposefully introduced by some property owners for game hunting. They have a beneficial effect for these human uses, but cause extensive ground disturbance and out-compete some native species for food and habitat as they root up large areas searching for food.



Reclamation strives to keep exotic species under control around Lake Berryessa and participates in region-wide planning and management groups to keep exotic species from invading this area. Some of these efforts include restoration projects such as creating wetland native plant areas; eradication of exotics like arundo and wild pigs; providing protected nesting areas for bald eagles, osprey, and other threatened birds; and increasing public education to help our visitors keep exotics such as the New Zealand mud snail from being introduced here in the first place. Reclamation works to protect and promote a healthy, balanced ecosystem that will be sustainable for many generations to come, and will provide a healthy water system and enjoyable experiences for all Lake Berryessa users.

Putah Creek Watershed

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The Upper Putah Creek watershed is about 35 miles in length and 20 miles in width at its widest point. Elevations range from 440 feet (the lake level of Lake Berryessa) to 4722 feet at Cobb Mountain. The watershed's main drainage is into Lake Berryessa. The most visible landmark in the Watershed is Mount St. Helena (in Napa County) which reaches an elevation of 4,344 feet

Putah Creek Discovery Corridor

The mission of the [PCDC Partnership](#) is to maintain and improve the Putah Creek Discovery Corridor as a "place for discovery" by spreading information about Putah Creek to increase public awareness and appreciation of this natural resource, build regional identity, and act as a steward for the public interest.

Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Conservation Partnership

[The Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area \(BRBNA\) Conservation Partnership](#) is a coalition of public resource and land management agencies, non-profit conservation and preservation organizations, and private-sector interests working to conserve more than 500,000 acres of private and public lands located in Napa, Solano, Yolo, Lake and Colusa Counties.

BRBNA includes portions of the Putah and Cache Creek watersheds. It is bounded by Blue Ridge on the east and extends from north of Highway 20 between Williams and Clearlake to just north of Interstate 80 in the south. Straddling the ancient contact between the rocks of the continental and Pacific tectonic plates, the natural area is geologically and ecologically diverse. Its unique assemblage of ecological communities include: serpentine chaparral in all of its varieties, grasslands, oak woodlands, and extensive riparian and cliff habitats.

Birds of Lake Berryessa



Lake Berryessa consists of the 20,000 acre lake as a primary feature and includes an additional 10,000 acres of Federally owned land. Within the Resource Area there are 165 miles of lake shore, seven Reclamation authorized full service concessions (resorts), several day use areas, boat launch facilities, hiking trails, a visitor center and a 2,000 acre wildlife management area managed and administered cooperatively with the California Department of Fish and Game and Reclamation.

The grassy hills dotted with oaks, ceanothus, and manzanita surround long inlets and coves populated by migratory tundra swans, resident Canada geese, mallards, ruddy ducks, and cinnamon teal. American white pelicans, western grebes, and mergansers fish the open water and tributaries along with terns, ospreys, and bald eagles. Watch for spotted sandpipers, green herons, and great blue herons near the shoreline. Nearly 25 species of birds of prey have been sighted including pygmy owls, prairie falcons and golden eagles. The oaks and chaparral attract many migratory and resident birds such as warblers, vireos, bluebirds, wild turkey, roadrunners and woodpeckers. Opportunities to observe eagles are excellent, but please do not disturb these birds and other nesting birds by approaching them closely. Lake Berryessa and the surrounding Reclamation land is not open to hunting under state laws. Rare plants occur at Lake Berryessa and Native American cultural values abound.

[The Lake Berryessa Wildlife Area](#) is managed cooperatively by Reclamation and the California Department of Fish and Game as an area to restore, enhance and protect the fish and wildlife resources along the eastside of the lake, by securing the long-term health and viability of habitats and re-establishing links among habitats.

Major management objectives for the Lake Berryessa Wildlife Area include:

- Conserving and enhancing habitat for diverse populations of fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species;
- Enhancing the riparian vegetation habitat along waterways;

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- Creating new wetland and restoring upland and oak habitats;
- Protecting Native American values;
- Providing compatible outdoor recreational opportunities, which may include activities such as hiking, fishing and watching wildlife;
- Managing for maximum biological diversity.

Lake Berryessa provides habitat for numerous bird species. Certain birds are only present in summer, others winter in the area, some just migrate through or occur irregularly. The management area is comprised of four major habitat types: Lake and pond areas, Oak Woodland, Foothill Grassland, and Mixed Chaparral with tributary and shoreline areas of riparian and wetland environments. Elevation ranges from over 3,000 feet atop Berryessa Peak to 440 feet at the lake surface. Putah Creek, Pope Creek and Capell Creek are the three main streams feeding Lake Berryessa. Also present are several side drainages that contain permanent water. It is along perennial waterways, with their attendant riparian vegetation, that the greatest number and variety of birds occur.



- [Birds Checklist for Berryessa](#) (pdf - 2.2 MB)

Plants of Lake Berryessa



Plant restoration

- [Lake Berryessa Plant Species List](#) (pdf - 98 KB)

Park Operations and "Greening of the Government" Activities

Reclamation Cares!

"Greening of the Government" initiative projects and efforts to make Lake Berryessa facilities full accessible to all

The Bureau of Reclamation not only manages, develops, and protects water related resources, but also provides many other recreational facilities and services that benefit the American public. We work hard to ensure that our

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operations and facilities meet all environmental guidelines, are accessible to anyone who wants to enjoy the area, and to ensure that we are on the leading edge of new environmental technologies.

Some of our recent projects include:

- **Park Restroom Retrofitting** - During the 2005/2006 winter months, the Facility Operations Division retrofitted the existing restrooms in Oak Shores and Smittle Creek Day Use Parks with new ADA accessible features. The retrofits include toilets, partitions, doors, and sinks to better accommodate special needs and improve the visitor experience.
- **Photo-Voltaic Panels** - In order to be more energy efficient, Reclamation introduced a new PV panel station in 2005 that provides renewable energy to Reclamation's administration area and Day Use Park operation.
- **Water Plant** – In the fall of 2005, the Facility Operations Division replaced the water plant that sanitizes and provides water to the Reclamation administration area and the Day Use parks.
- **Capell Cove Launch Courtesy Dock** - During the summer of 2005, a new accessible courtesy dock was installed at the Capell Cove Boat Launch Day Use Area. The parking lot and ramp were also re-paved to improve visitor access and convenience. This launch ramp is free to the public and open year around for day use. Get there early to find parking in the summer!
- **Oak Shores and Smittle Creek Recreation Facility Upgrades** – Throughout the 2005/2006 seasons, Reclamation is adding more barbeque stands, accessible picnic tables, and upgrading existing tables and walkways to be more accessible and user-friendly for all visitors. We are adding several shade shelters (available on a reservation basis, click [here](#) for reservation info) that will be fully accessible. The Foxtail Flat area of the park is considered the most accessible area of the park due to slope and ground stability, for those with limited mobility and wheelchair needs.
- **Water Education and Information Station** – This new Station, emphasizing water safety and water conservation, is located at Foxtail Flat inside Oak Shores Day Use Park, and was introduced in summer of 2005. The Station was designed to meet ADA guidelines for mobility and visually impaired visitors, with a wheelchair accessible ramp and large text exhibits.
- **New Brochures & Signs** - Reclamation has committed to producing all new signs and brochures with appropriate text size, fonts, and universal symbols to meet the needs of visually impaired visitors and to convey universal information to visitors of all nationalities, using established ADA guidelines.

Lake Conditions

Lake conditions vary seasonally on Lake Berryessa depending on weather and annual rainfall. Please see the following link for the most up-to-date [lake condition information](#).

You will be leaving the Bureau of Reclamation website and we are not responsible for content.

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Lake Berryessa Recreation Division, Administrative Office

Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region

5520 Knoxville Road, Napa CA 94558

707/966-2111

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

[Map](#)

[Berryessa Contacts and General Information \(print version\)](#)

Lake Berryessa Staff		
Dial the main number 707/966-2111 then the listed extension		
Dan Kolda	Acting Park Manager	x145
Vacant	Interdisciplinary Program Coordinator	x102
Dan Kolda	Concessions Manager	x141
Jon Mannel	Facilities Manager (Safety Hazards and Recycle Center)	x101
Jason Jordan	Outdoor Recreation Planner (Special Use Permits and Shade Shelter Reservations)	x143
Juliet Gifford	Natural Resources Specialist	x103
Jackson Collier	Lead Interpretive Ranger (Ranger Programs, Education Outreach Programs, and Web Comments)	x111
Mike McGraw	Lead Patrol Ranger	x112

Visitor Center

5520 Knoxville Road, Napa CA 94558

707/966-2111, ext. 113

Hours of Operation

Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

[Map](#)

Water Education and Information Station

5550 Knoxville Road, inside Oak Shores Day Use Park

Open weekends and holidays, Memorial Day - Labor Day, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Map](#)

[Mike Finnegan](#),

CCAO Area Manager

[Janet Denes](#),

CCAO Administrative Officer

916-988-1707

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Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region

[Janet Sierzputowski](#), Public Information Manager 916/978-5112

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[Map](#)